

GRANT.

THE BATTLE OF DABNEY'S MILLS.

Hatcher's Run the Extreme Left of the Lines.

The New Positions Being Strongly Fortified.

Lee Reported Removing His Artillery from the Front of the Army of the James.

MORE RUMORS OF EVACUATION.

Special Mention of Gallantry in the Late Battles.

So., So., So.

OUR SPECIAL DESPATCHES.

Our Hatcher's Run Correspondence.

NEAR HATCHER'S RUN, Feb. 9, 1865.
 Scarcely had the peace commissioners of the enemy returned to their capital with the reply of the national government to their arrogant conditions of peace than General Grant again set at work the true diplomacy of a settlement. The Great Napoleon is said to have remarked "that nothing durable ever came out of war." We may add that durable peace never originated in an unfinished war. If we are to gain anything by the long and bloody struggle in which we have been engaged the best fruits of the conflict are to be reaped in magnanimity towards a subdued and powerless foe. The true avenue to peace is by force of arms. It is unquestionable that Grant's promptness in following up the failure of the peace mission by a bold, determined movement and a permanent extension of his investment towards the vital point of the enemy's lines—the Southside Railroad—will have a moral effect upon the South which their artful leaders will find difficult to conceal. While the hollow declamations of Davis and his coadjutors are crying war the thunders of war are to be heard reverberating mournfully the inexorable tendency of their doomed cause. Aside, however, from the moral effect of the new movement, it has its another importance, as preliminary to a new combination. It places a portion of Grant's army in a position directly threatening the Southside Railroad and necessitates the drawing out and consequent weakening of the enemy's lines. It is known that Lee with difficulty could place a bold front on his old lines, how much less then is he in a condition to hold also the new point menaced.

On the afternoon of the 6th inst. field orders and letters of instruction were despatched to the commanding officers of the Second and Fifth corps to make large details of their commands for a movement. Of the Second corps the Second division, Brigadier General T. A. Smith commanding, and the Third division, Brigadier General G. M. McM. Gregg commanding, of the Fifth corps, the divisions of Generals Ayres, Griffin and Crawford, and General D. McM. Gregg's cavalry division of the Army of the Potomac, were instructed to prepare for marching orders. There was much speculation among officers and men as to the object of the contemplated movement; but as time alone would unravel this mystery the troops passed the night, as usual on such occasions, in reducing their knapsacks to marching weight, and bargaining with their comrades for a profitable riddance of the surplus baggage.

Before dawn the various commanders had received final instructions, and the troops were formed to move in their designated positions in the column. The general command of the movement was assigned to Major General G. K. Warren, commanding Fifth corps. At three o'clock on the morning of the 6th inst. the Fifth corps, preceded by Gregg's cavalry, debouched from its camp and moved out upon the Halifax road, advancing in the direction of Reams' station. The Second corps moved out on the Vaughan road shortly after six A. M. accompanying their respective brigades were the batteries, ambulance corps, ammunition and forage trains. Detachments of the signal corps accompanied headquarters.

ON THE MOVE.
 The day was indeed beautiful. The bright sun banished unavailing doubts and thoughts of the awful clash between the present and the future. The soldiers' spirits were as sparkling as the bright sunlight that shone cheerily upon the veteran columns as it measured its footsteps towards the enemy.

Upon reaching the outlying picket on the Vaughan road the Third Pennsylvania cavalry, Major Hoss commanding, selected into column and led the advance of the Second corps.

THE ADVANCING MOVEMENT.

The first object of the march of the Second corps by the Vaughan road was to cover the movement of the Fifth corps. About midday the head of the Second corps column reached Hatcher's run. Finding the enemy entrenched, the Third Pennsylvania cavalry came to carry the ford, but found the enemy too strong, and was driven back. The first brigade, Third division, was next ordered up and deployed, facing the ford. The Ninety-ninth Pennsylvania, Colonel Biles commanding, immediately advanced across the run, scattering confusion and confusion among the enemy, driving him back under cover of the wood. The cavalry now gave pursuit, followed by the infantry, and the line of the Third division was advanced about a mile, occupying the summit of a hill, upon which they commenced the erection of fieldworks. During the progress of these demonstrative operations on the part of the Third division, the Second division struck off through an untraveled road to the right, towards Armstrong's ford. The head of the column, composed of the Nineteenth Massachusetts, encountered the enemy near the run, and, with the assistance of the Tenth New York, compelled the enemy to withdraw across the stream. This success effected, a junction of the two divisions and the whole line of the Second corps was arrayed in order of battle to meet any offensive movements on the part of the enemy.

Late in the afternoon the enemy opened a brisk fire of artillery, without, however, eliciting a reply. Emboldened by this silence, his infantry, preceded by a heavy skirmish line, advanced in line of battle.

Our troops permitted them to come within easy range, when they opened a severe fire of musketry, which caused the line to fall back in considerable disorder. The enemy, not disheartened, repeated his attempt to dislodge our forces, and met with a similar repulse. The flank movement was then attempted with no better success. Colonel Matthew S. Murphy, of the Sixty-ninth New York, commanding the Second division, held the right of the line, his own right flank resting on a swamp. As the enemy approached he greeted him with an effective shower of bullets, which caused him to break and retreat out of range. Soon after dark, having been thwarted in every effort to break the continuity of our lines, the enemy withdrew to his fortifications. The Second brigade of the Second division and Third brigade of the Third division bore the brunt of the day's fighting. The officers and men throughout bore themselves nobly. General Humphreys in person superintended the operations of the corps. Among the wounded was Colonel Murphy, commanding the Second brigade, Third division. The sum of the day's losses of the Second corps was about thirty.

THE OPERATIONS OF THE FIFTH CORPS.

While the Second corps was engaging the attention of

the enemy on the Vaughan road, the main column, composed of the Fifth corps, continued on its way towards Reams' station. After a march of six miles the advance reached Rowanty creek. Distances and flying parties could be seen hovering mysteriously on the front, taking observations, and then suddenly disappearing. The troops, however, thus far encountered no opposition. The Rowanty creek is about twenty feet wide, and not conveniently fordable. The old bridge was no longer in existence. The column was accordingly delayed for a short time, while the pioneers were engaged in constructing a temporary bridge. The process of bridging was simple. Two trees upon the bank, and transversely at the proper distance from each other, were speedily felled by the sturdy arm of the pioneers in such a manner that they fell across the stream. These formed the stringers upon which was constructed a solid bed of boughs. The men worked with difficulty, and, though covered by a detachment of light infantry, the sharpshooters of the enemy harassed them from the cover of the wooded banks. The impromptu bridge having been completed, in order to secure a lodgment beyond the stream and protect the construction of bridges for the passage of the whole force, the Third brigade, Second division, Brigadier General Gwyn commanding, advanced in column on a trot across the bridge. The opposite bank was steep and difficult of ascent, and a short distance beyond rifle pits obscured a line of fifteen men, numbers unknown. Undaunted by these uncertainties, Gwyn hastened his men forward. In a few minutes a scattering fire ceased, and in a few minutes after quiet was restored by the possession of the pits by our forces. Gwyn lost but one man. The enemy several besides twenty-two prisoners.

GREGG'S CAVALRY OPERATIONS.

As I have stated, Gregg led the column of the Fifth corps. Instead of delaying his movements at infantry pace, he struck out boldly and reached Reams' station very soon after daybreak. Thus far encountering no opposition, he extended his march at once in the direction of Dinwiddie Court House. The enemy by this time was fully aroused, and a portion of Hampton's cavalry, on foot, covered by breastworks and a stream, endeavored to check the advance. The Third Pennsylvania cavalry, Col. Nevins commanding, was dismounted and advanced as skirmishers, gaining an advantage. The Second Pennsylvania cavalry drove across and dashed through the skirmishers across the bridge at a gallop; the skirmishers retired and followed up a double quick. A wonderfully small duration of time settled the affair; the enemy left his works and scattered through a field; the men mounted pursued and harvested about twenty of the fugitives. The enemy no longer an obstacle, the dismounted cavalry returned to their saddles, and, under the pilotage of a negro, moved for the Court House. The troops, with infinite difficulty, made their way, as the route, in the phraseology of a civilian, "lay by a short cut," through ploughed fields, woods interminable, and mud belly deep. The horses struggled, and, in the multiplication of their difficulties, the officers entertained doubts as to the fidelity of their guide. A few hours, however, thoroughly re-established his character. The column entered Dinwiddie Court House without previous alarm, and greatly to the surprise of the inhabitants. The results of this unexpected visit were a rebel mail captured. A scouting party also captured a rebel train.

Dinwiddie Court House is a station on the main wagon road running between North Carolina and Richmond. Posted in the town a notice was discovered, beseeching citizens to sell or even lend all their surplus food to Lee's army. This is an unquestionable evidence of short diet in Richmond.

Before Gregg left Dinwiddie a body of rebel cavalry from Lee's front moved up to thwart his further progress. A preliminary brush sufficiently dampened the ardor of the enemy, and he returned to Belledale. Having satisfied the object of his movement Gregg returned to Rowanty creek and bivouacked, being less than three miles from the enemy. The army had destroyed the bridge, however, was soon replaced by the pioneers. One brigade immediately crossed the stream. At one A. M. the men were again astride their animals, and reached the Boydton and Vaughan road at daybreak, and took position in Warren's rear, two miles from Hatcher's run.

TOTAL OF THE DAY'S WORK ON THE 6TH INST.
 Both corps had secured a foothold across Hatcher's run. The Second corps repelled several assaults of the enemy, at one time reaching a force of four divisions. His punishment was severe, and in the night withdrew, leaving his dead and wounded on the field. The Fifth corps held the position taken in the afternoon. The cavalry ransacked the region in the vicinity of Dinwiddie Court House, and took a large sum of the losses on our part was about two hundred.

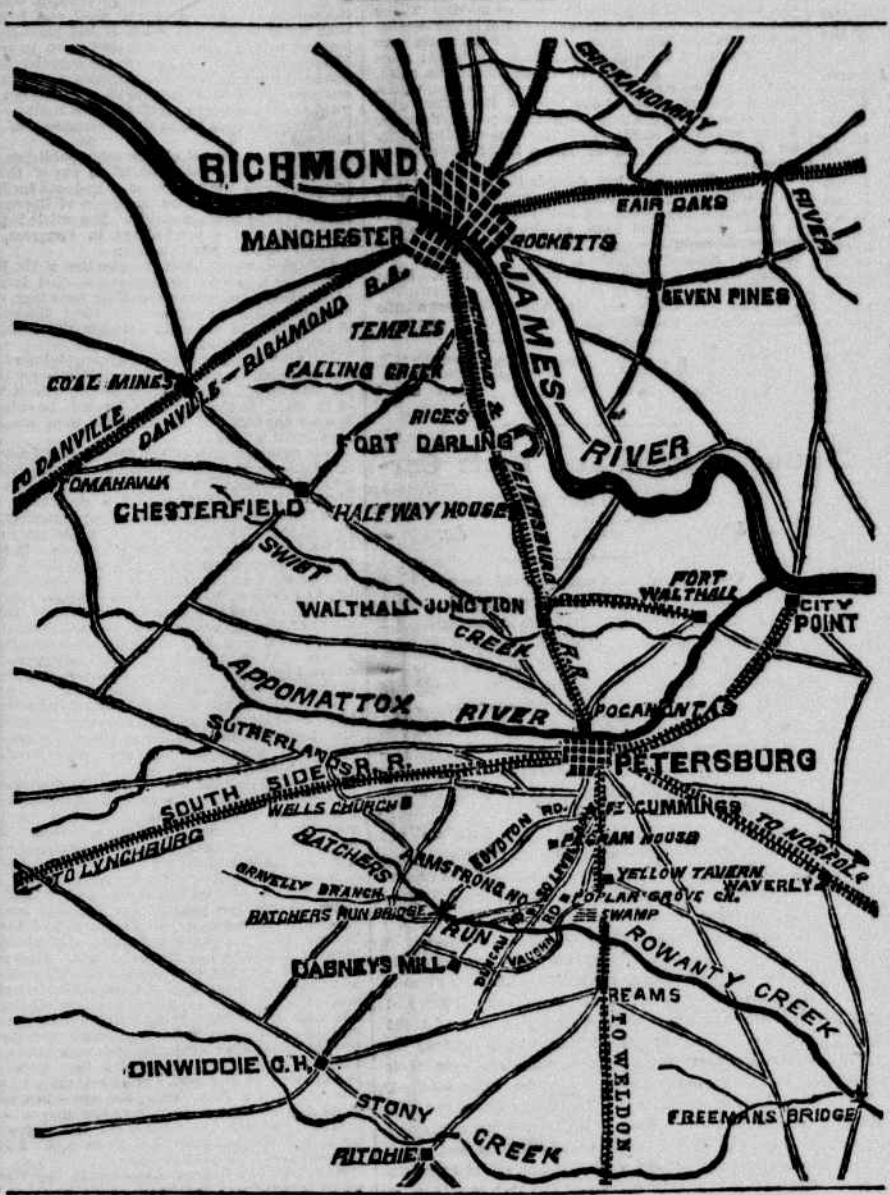
THE MORNING OF THE 7TH INST. found the army refreshed by an unbroken night, an early breakfast, and in line ready for something to turn up. The positions were: Second corps on the right, Fifth corps on the left, cavalry in front. The line was covered by the heavy works, timber, and the roads filled with mud. The morning was spent in strengthening the defenses and cordoning off the flanks. The Second corps, under the command of General Warren, made a reconnaissance and developed the fact that there was no force between the new lines and the old works below Petersburg. The Fifth corps occupied the position in the line of attack. General Meade was on the field.

Early in the afternoon the enemy disclosed a column moving towards the right. Our main movements were on the left.

THE ADVANCE OF THE FIFTH CORPS.
 At noon the Fifth corps moved to the right from the Duncan road towards the Boydton plank road. The skirmishers were soon engaged, and a running fight ensued, the main body following up closely as the enemy retired. In the vicinity of Dabney's mill the enemy took position under cover of temporary works. From there he was soon dislodged. The two lines now engaged in an irregular, intense, and bitter struggle. The timber in front. On the part of the enemy the fire gradually grew more continuous and heavy. It now began to rain, and the struggle was continued with a determination, and an offensive strike at the proper moment. It was five o'clock P. M. To prepare for emergencies Ayres' division was ordered up to the support of Crawford, and when the tag in column was suddenly assailed, in large force, and driven back to the support of the Third division. Subsequent movements of the line broke out in a few minutes the entire line became a wreck. The Third division (Wheaton's) of the Sixth corps, which left its camp that morning, was broken up during the day, and the enemy entered into the work in earnest—as a matter of life or death. The country between Hatcher's run and the mill is covered with a heavy wood, the ground softened by numerous swamps and cut up by ravines. The road upon which the columns and trains were obliged to move was narrow, filled with stumps, and, above all, knee deep with mud. A slight crust of frozen surface only multiplied the difficulties. The column moved forward with the utmost caution, and, instead of the orderly advance of battle, was used up by the conflict with the mud. The men lost their shoes, their clothing was drenched, and their arms in many instances were rendered unfit for immediate use. The artillery and train suffered more than the men. Animals tossed about in their useless exertions to extricate themselves and their burdens were much broken in the advance. It would be impossible to convey the formations on the retreat. The men fought single handed through the timber from tree to tree, and the enemy followed up closely, and the enemy captured on their rear. No efforts on the part of the officers could stay the men. They were unmanageable. They were determined to abandon the wood, and only upon reaching the open country on the Vaughan road and finding the bridges all entire and the guards perfectly calm, did they recover their presence of mind. The men were then ordered to move forward under protection of the temporary works thrown up by the Third division of the Second corps the day before, the men swarmed the onslaught of the enemy. A few minutes of confusion and the entire line was broken. The skirmishers fell back hastily. The woods in front were soon bristling with bayonets, and the enemy dashed upon the line and drove it back. From their works the Fifth corps met him with a terrible fire. The opposition was intense. The enemy made no per-

OPERATIONS ON HATCHER'S RUN.

The Latest Movement—Scene of the Extension on the Left.



istent effort to carry the works. He soon withdrew, and was lost in the obscurity of the wood.

During the action of the Fifth corps the left of the Second corps sustained and repelled attack near the Armstrong House, on the Duncan road.

THE SCENE OF THE 6TH INST. was a very remarkable one. Crawford's division, which left its camp four thousand strong, fought upon the action of this day one thousand and four hundred officers and men killed, wounded and missing. The losses in the other divisions were small. The enemy's loss must have been equally as great as our aggregate, including one hundred and eighty prisoners taken. The conclusion, in the scale of advantage, was in favor of the enemy.

THE THIRD DAY.
 The night of the 6th inst. with a cold rain. On the 7th, however, the weather was sunny. The enemy must have suffered severely from the cold of the 6th, as he exhibited little opposition. On the 7th a reconnaissance was at once set in motion. Crawford's division was called under arms, and by noon was retracing its steps across the ground it had gained and lost the day before. One-half mile from the night's bivouac the pickets of the enemy were encountered and driven back. The division now deployed in line, the right on Hatcher's run and the left supported by Wheaton's division of the Sixth corps. The whole line felt its way carefully. The enemy soon discovered his force. The conflict which ensued was spirited, but brief. The enemy gave way, though contesting his ground with vigor, and finally took up his position in the woods at Dabney's mill. The two forces indulged in a spirited exchange of musketry. The enemy evinced no desire to repeat the assault of the day before, and at night Crawford rejoined the main body on the Vaughan road.

THE GENERAL FEATURES OF THE WORK OF THE 7TH may be expressed in the word—quiet. The troops used their spaces vigorously, and permanent lines of defense were laid out and work commenced. The enemy had expended his strength on the 6th, and the formidable works quickly constructed were a sufficient argument against further offensive operations.

LATER.
 Yesterday the lines were unfortified. The work of fortification goes on rapidly. Concrete works are fast springing up, and the men, after all their trials, are satisfied with the ultimate advantages gained. Though the movements of the past few days were attended with many vicissitudes and a severe test of endurance of the men, the final result is eminently satisfactory. The territory of Hatcher's run, which for months has been a scene of controversy between the two forces, now forms part of our lines. Pioneers and fatigue parties are rapidly converting the dense woods into a scene of hostile occupation. Five miles have been added to our lines, and Richmond is so much nearer its downfall.

To speak of the gallantry of officers and men would be to repeat that which the country is already familiar with. The trials of no former movements ever equalled those of the present. But no complaints were heard, and the issue of the movement more than compensates all for their suffering.

THE FIFTH CORPS.

Mr. L. A. Hendrick's Despatch.
 HATCHER'S RUN, Feb. 10, 1865.
 IN THE FIELD.

All our troops have now been withdrawn to this side of Hatcher's run, and the earthworks constructed the other side of the stream have been destroyed. This shortens our line somewhat, but makes our position much more defensible. It is probable there will be no more changes otherwise than continuing to strengthen our present position.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF LOSSES.

The official reports have come in, showing the casualties in the corps in the late fights. These reports show one hundred and fourteen killed, and eight hundred and seventy-three wounded.

THE LOSSES OF THE DIVISIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

First Division—Four officers and eighteen men killed, twelve officers and one hundred men wounded.
 Second Division—Five officers and thirteen men killed, ten officers and one hundred and seventy-eight men wounded.

THIRD DIVISION—FIVE OFFICERS AND SIXTY-NINE MEN KILLED, THIRTEEN OFFICERS AND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOUR MEN WOUNDED.

THE CONDUCT OF THE DIFFERENT COMMANDERS.

It will be seen from the above that the bulk of the loss has fallen upon General Crawford's division, upon whom also happened to fall the bulk of the fighting. Of the three brigades in the division, General Bragg's suffered the most. Too much credit cannot be given to General Crawford for the skillful and efficient manner in which he handled his men. General Bragg, or the little American General as he is called—his weight only one hundred and thirteen pounds—has won additional laurels not only for his judicious coolness in action, but the mastery management of his command. And so, too, has General Baxter, who, in this brief and spirited campaign, has shown that dauntless courage and soldierly aptitude and daring first so conspicuously and brilliantly brought to notice on the bloody field of Antietam.

In former despatches I have referred to the splendid conduct of Brigadier General Gwyn and Winthrop. General Gwyn never fought his present brigade till in the late fight. He was not only the commander of the brigade, but its leader. He led in every fight, and the men think now there is no such man as General Gwyn, saying of course, the first worshipped idol, Brigadier General Ayres, commanding the division, and Major General Warren, corps commander. General Winthrop was originally the color bearer of the old Fifth New York regiment, and his promotion, while it gives a wider scope for the display of his military abilities, already proven to be of the highest order, shows him still the same old brave, daring soldier as when first bearing aloft the proud banner and stripes of the old Fifth.

I am glad here to correct a statement in a former despatch, namely, that the Fifth corps troops fired into our camp. I make this correction upon the authority of Gen.

THE PRESS DESPATCH.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 10, 1865.

Two men were executed to-day in this army for desertion. Their names were James L. Hicks, sixty-seventh Pennsylvania, Third division, Sixth corps, and Samuel Clements, Third-second Maine. The latter was convicted of cowardice in addition to desertion. Hugh P. Riley, of the Eleventh Massachusetts, was also to have been shot to-day for desertion, but the execution of his sentence has been suspended.

The losses in the late engagements at Hatcher's run foot up as follows, not counting the missing, which will not exceed two hundred:—

	Officers.		Men.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
Second division	3	8	16	26
Third division	4	10	18	31
FIFTH CORPS.				
First division	4	12	18	141
Second division	5	10	18	138
Third division	5	27	60	408
SIXTH CORPS.				
First division				17
Cavalry division	4	9	12	82
			Officers.	Men.
Total killed and wounded			91	1,113

Total killed and wounded.

In the first day's fight it was stated that the Second division of the Second corps were the only troops actively engaged; which report did injustice to the Third brigade of the Third division, commanded by Brigadier General McCallister. This brigade was detached from the division and sent to the support of General Smith. They took position on his right, near the Tucker House, where they threw up a strong breastwork. About the time they had completed their breastwork, General Ramsey's brigade, but were ordered to occupy the ground between the latter and General Smith's right. Before they had time to get into position the enemy made their appearance in three lines of battle, evidently expecting little opposition at that point.

This was the desperate fight of Sunday afternoon took place, and, led McCallister's brigade not stood their ground as they did, repulsing three desperate assaults, the Second division would have been flanked, and, the enemy gaining the Vaughan road, would have been in a position to cut off the connection with our main lines, and undoubtedly caused much heavier loss than that reported above. General McCallister was highly complimented by General Humphreys and other officers for the gallantry displayed by the men, General Humphreys himself being present when the third charge was repulsed.

No fighting has taken place since Tuesday, the enemy not seeming disposed to interfere with our occupancy of the ground gained in the late movement.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT COLONEL TREMELINE.
 BALTIMORE, Feb. 12, 1865.
 The remains of Lieutenant Colonel Tremeline, killed before Petersburg, left this evening for New York.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

THE BATTLE OF DABNEY'S MILLS.

THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE 6TH INST. A VERY SEVERE ONE.

(From the Richmond Sentinel, Feb. 10.)

We learn from the Richmond Express that the fighting on Monday is represented to have been very severe at Dabney's Mills. The timber and undergrowth was broken up in places by balls and bullets.

The scene of the battle was on the west side of Hatcher's run, some two or three miles south of Petersburg. The ground was fought over four times in consequence of successive reinforcements reaching either side. The Yankees had the greater part of the day, and the wounded brought back to the rear.

The fighting was done on our side by Pegram's and Evans' divisions of Gordon's corps, and Mahone's division of the Tenth New York. The charge of these troops, which broke the Yankee lines late in the day, is said to have been one of the grandest scenes in military annals. The enemy fled in great confusion and was not stopped until they reached their breastworks at Hatcher's run.

The Yankees lost in this day's engagement between 1,500 and 2,000 men killed and wounded and about one hundred in prisoners. Our loss will not reach five hundred.

General Sorrell was wounded by a stray ball through the left lung. His wound is dangerous, but we are gratified to learn he is not considered mortal.

About one hundred prisoners taken from the enemy have been brought into the city. The dead on both sides have all been buried, and the wounded all brought from the field. Most of our men are but slightly wounded.

The enemy is erecting two or more observatories opposite prominent points on our right. One of these is in front of Col. Pegram's brigade, nearly opposite Pegram's house. It has already reached a height of between one hundred and two hundred feet, and it is said will be run up to three hundred feet. It is located about two miles from our lines. There was no fighting yesterday. Both sides were engaged in strengthening their lines.

NO FIGHTING AT PETERSBURG SINCE THE 7TH INSTANT.

PETERSBURG, Feb. 8, 1865.

There was no fighting to-day, and quiet was once more resumed.

The enemy still holds his position on Hatcher's run. His lines have thereby been extended, but not advanced. General Sorrell was wounded in the leg, but the wound is not considered mortal.

Colonel Hoffman, of Virginia, was killed in the fight on Monday.

Our loss will not reach five hundred. The enemy's loss is estimated to be between 1,500 and 2,000 men.

SHERMAN.

The South Carolina Railroad Destroyed.

Sherman in Possession of It at Several Points.

Numerous Bridges Over the Edisto and Other Streams Burned.

A Large Column of Sherman's Infantry at Blackville.

Communication Between Augusta and Charleston and the Rebel Capital Cut.

Kilpatrick's Cavalry Engaged at Blackville.

RUMORED EVACUATION OF CHARLESTON, &c., &c., &c.

The Movement Against the South Carolina Railroad.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 8, 1865.
 A despatch from Major General Joseph Wheeler, dated Holmes' Bridge, February 7, twenty minutes past eight, says:—

My pickets near Blackville this morning were charged by three brigades of cavalry, which drove them beyond the village. Colonel G. G. Dibrell's Tennessee brigade, being in the vicinity, met and charged the enemy, driving them back into the village.

[Blackville, S. C., is a station on the South Carolina Railroad, twenty-eight miles due west from Branchville and forty-seven from Augusta. It is only forty-nine miles southwest of Columbia, the capital of the State.—Ed. Herald.]

HOLMES' BRIDGE BURNED.—COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BRANCHVILLE AND AUGUSTA DESTROYED.
 BRANCHVILLE, S. C., Feb. 8, 1865.
 The enemy have made their appearance along the South Carolina Railroad, beyond the Edisto river. They burned a house within a mile and a half of the railroad bridge.

About seven o'clock yesterday evening our troops were withdrawn to this side of the bridge and Holmes' bridge burned. The destruction of this bridge severs railroad communication with Augusta.

General Winder died suddenly this morning of apoplexy.

SHERMAN'S MAIN FORCE NEAR THE SOUTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.—KILPATRICK AT BLACKVILLE.
 CHARLESTON, Feb. 9, 1865.

A despatch from Orangeburg to-day says that the enemy are in front of the Edisto line, from near New bridge to Duncan bridge. The main force is said to be near the railroad. There has been skirmishing to-day at Benbow's bridge. Our troops are guarding the railroad bridge. The enemy show no disposition to force a crossing.

A despatch from General Wheeler, dated Feb. 8, three o'clock P. M., says:—

A large column of the enemy's infantry struck the railroad at Graham's and Blackville. Kilpatrick is at Blackville, with three brigades.

[Charleston Reported Evacuated.]

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 10.]
 This railroad connection with Augusta is severed. No official despatches from this quarter were given to the press yesterday. Whether any were received we do not know. It is an error, however, to suppose that the news of the capture of the South Carolina Railroad is in the hands of the press, and that we can no longer draw supplies from Georgia. It would be unwise to explain the matter at this time.

There was a report yesterday that Charleston had been evacuated. We find in official circles no confirmation of the report.

SHENANDOAH.

Mr. Charles H. Farrell's Despatch.

WINCHESTER, Va., Feb. 9, 1865.

A SOUVENIR EXPEDITION.
 A scouting party from our army went out on an expedition a day or two ago, and returned last evening safe and sound, bringing with them as prisoners one rebel soldier of the First Missouri cavalry and two others of the Twelfth Virginia cavalry. The scouting party went out on the Romney road until they reached Petticoat Gap; they then made a detour to the northward, and took a course parallel to Little North Mountain, crossed Faucet's creek, keeping on until they reached Cedar creek, near Snyder's Gap. It was near the latter place that the rebel prisoners were taken.

It is a significant fact that one of the prisoners belonged to Hood's army, who says he, in company with others, were captured near the Southwest by our troops, were sent North, exchanged and sent to Richmond. Reaching the latter place, they were assigned to regiments operating in Virginia, irrespective of their original regiments. The prisoners are vocal night and day with the cheers, songs and enthusiasm of the Jubilee. All sorts of sleights make up the turnout, from the cracker box on runners to the fancy Yankee gun. Our generals lead the van in the sport. Altogether our troops are having a pleasant season.

CONSIDERING THE PROBLEM.
 It seems there is a disposition on the part of our authorities to pursue the policy of conciliation towards the inhabitants of those portions of the rebel States that now are or may come into our possession. This is exhibited in the fact of sending to rebel families parcels of beef, flour, &c. It may be a humanitarian measure to give to those destitute families that are made up of women and children, who have been driven from their homes, but it is well known that the rebels are not without access to the supplies of the Government. One army has been seen in the hands of the rebels, and the rebels have been seen in the hands of the rebels. I am afraid the conciliatory policy will not succeed.

SAILING OF THE PERUVIAN.
 PORTLAND, Feb. 12, 1865.
 The steamship Peruvian, Captain Pastine, sailed at six o'clock this morning for Liverpool and London.